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AN
ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE SOUTH-CAROLINA INSTITUTE,

AT ITS

SECOND ANNUAL FAIR,

On the 19th November, 1850.

BY JOS. H. LUMPKIN,

A Member of the Institute.



CHARLESTON, S. C. ;
WALKER & JAMES, 101 EAST-BAY.
1851.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

CHARLESTON, (So. CA.) Nov. 21, 1850.

HON. J. H. LUMPKIN:

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the South-Carolina Institute, held on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., we were appointed as a Committee to wait upon you and request a copy of the very interesting Address delivered by you before the Institute, for publication. The unavoidable occupation occasioned by the opening of the Annual Fair connected with that body, and our ignorance of your speedy return, prevented us from personally discharging so pleasing a duty. Permit us, then, at the earliest moment thereafter, to fulfil the charge laid upon us, and respectfully to request a copy of your Address for publication. The interesting matter embodied in it cannot but serve to stimulate the newly awakened spirit of Southern Industry.

We have the honor to remain, Dear Sir,

With considerations of respect,

Your ob't. serv'ts,

WILMOT G. DESAUSURE,
JOSEPH WALKER,
C. Y. RICHARDSON, } *Committee.*

ATHENS, Nov. 25TH, 1850.

Gentlemen,—I am highly sensible of the deficiency of the Address, the publication of which is desired by the Institute. And were I to consult my own wishes, I should withhold this production from publication. The corrections were made in pencil after I reached your city, and were completed within an hour only of the time when it was delivered. Want of health and want of leisure prevented me doing more. I particularly regret not having connected the Ship with the Plough, the Loom and the Anvil, as one of the main instrumentalities in building up the prosperity of the South. All four are necessary, and they all materially sustain and support each other. I do not feel at liberty, however, to decline the request which the Directors have thought proper to make, and which you have communicated in such obliging terms.

With the most ardent desire for the growing prosperity of your State and city, and with the highest respect for yourselves and the members of the Association,

I am, gentlemen, your obedient serv't.,

(Signed)

JOS. HENRY LUMPKIN.

ADDRESS.

NEVER have I coveted the gift of eloquence so much as on the present occasion. Standing as I do in the place where the consummate masters of the art have long been accustomed to achieve the most signal triumphs ever won in the exercise of this noble faculty—addressing an audience which, for genius, taste, refinement and knowledge, will compare advantageously with any in the Union—who would not, surrounded by such circumstances, earnestly desire the commanding power of this heaven-born endowment? Who would not entertain the most unfeigned distrust of his ability to discharge, worthily and acceptably, the duty set before him?

Still, Mr. President and Gentlemen of the South-Carolina Institute, at your call I have come, if not with alacrity, I must say in all sincerity, with an ardent desire to bring my contribution, however humble, to the cause in which we are all so deeply concerned,—a cause upon which certainly the prosperity and glory, if not the permanent welfare and safety of your State depend. And although my mite shall soon be overlooked and forgotten, amid the pearls and more costly gifts of my distinguished predecessor and those who shall follow me in coming years, nevertheless it will testify to all, not only my devotion to the patriotic enterprise which has

convened us at this time, but to the gallant State also, by whose kindness and partiality I am, and ever shall be proud to have been thus honored.

What heart does not expand with pride and exultation at the spectacle we are to witness during this anniversary? What triumph of mind over animate and inanimate matter! What a mighty magician is mind! Under its talismanic touch the stock and stone, the clay, cotton and wool, the iron, brass and marble spring into form and comeliness.

What an era of progress, not backward nor downward, but upward and onward. Who has not secretly sighed for the 969 years of the Antediluvian age? But three score and ten in the middle of the Nineteenth Century is more than the life of Methuselah. Centuries have become years—years minutes.

We move on from one attainment to another—from one elevation to a higher—from conflict to conquest. To what an eminence have we already attained? And yet the ascent is just begun—one improvement furnishes only the means and motives for another. The victories already gained are but the presage and proof of what may be expected—clusters from the luxuriant vines of Canaan. The worlds, both of mind and matter, are boundless and without exhaustion. Limits are set to the billows of the Ocean—the earth must revolve in her prescribed orbit, and even the eccentric comet must return from her mysterious voyage “of awful length.” But where is the boundary to mind and matter?

The tunnel under the Thames—the tubular bridge across the Menai Straits—the success of Daguerre in producing in a moment, by the light of heaven, the

most exquisite likenesses—the annihilations of time and space by the steam car and the electric telegraph, are now considered ordinary events. Even the tunnelling the Alps—the construction of a rail road from the Mississippi to the Pacific, and the running of the wires of the electric telegraph across the English channel, are familiar projects. A suspension bridge from France to England, across the Straits of Dover—a balloon railway over the Sahara or Great Desert of Africa—a method of navigating the Ocean by magneto-electricity, and the construction of a railway in Spain! are among the more bold and modern schemes contemplated by the enterprising spirit of the times. These brilliant conceptions may, some or all of them, fail. But within the life of the present generation, science and the arts will accomplish wonders of which it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive. And what is of infinite importance, all we gain we shall keep. Another dark age will never come over the world. Knowledge is no longer locked up in cloisters. The press, teeming and groaning with its Titanic labors, throwing off ten thousand sheets per hour, has made all the best books common books—Macaulay's splendid history, Leibig's Agricultural Chemistry, and the Bible, a whole library of itself, may be had for one dollar. Thanks to the art of printing and to its handmaid, the art of manufacturing paper, for making science accessible to all—for republicanizing knowledge. By these wonderful agencies all the learning of the world has been spread over the world, and thus secured against the hostile invasion of Goth, Vandal or Saracen.

What if we were thrown back upon stone—tablets of

wood, and of ivory—plates of lead—skins, parchment, linen—layers of wax, and even the papyrus upon which to *inscribe* and *transcribe* thought,—what a total eclipse would shroud the nations?

Go to Holyrood Palace, the ancient residence of Scottish royalty, and compare the bed and furniture of the beautiful and unhappy Queen Mary in 1650, with that of the Planters of Carolina in 1850; and we shall learn to feel a just pride at our advancement. And with our natural advantages, there is scarcely a citizen of the South who might not, with his cottage and garden, and grapery and flowers, and fruit trees and fish pond—(and who that lives on running waters might not enjoy this last named luxury?—and who in all this wide spread country does not live on a stream larger or smaller?)—I repeat, with little labor and no expense, every farmer, wealthy or otherwise, might surround himself with delicacies which old Lucullus himself, of lamprey-loving memory, might have envied in the palmiest days of Rome; and which wealth cannot command for many of the potentates of Europe.

What does Victoria and her Princely consort know of those delicious dainties—our melons, peaches, green corn and tomato? And why should we not enjoy these aristocratic luxuries? Is not every voter here a sovereign, as much so as the Autocrat of Russia? Is not his will, as expressed through the ballot-box, law—his fiat irreversible? And what is more and better, he is after all the only *jure-divino* king upon the face of the globe. All others are usurpers. Nothing then but the most disreputable supineness and want of inclination can prevent any man, who owns a few rods of land, from surrounding himself with the most delightful enjoyments.

The grant made to man at his creation was exceedingly broad. He was to have dominion over the fish of the sea and the fowl of the air: and over the vegetable kingdom and the cattle of the fields, and every living thing: and over all the earth. And the condition annexed to this grant was, that he was to *subdue* the earth. How slow he has been to fulfil this command, in its true and noblest sense! The authority thus delegated to man over this lower world, was not to be exercised capriciously, as a tyrant; but as the viceroy of his Maker, who, while He vouchsafes seed-time and harvest, provides the alternation of summer and winter, that the vexed earth may have rest from her toils. How much more beneficent is nature than man! The flower withers and the foliage of the forest decays, and both return to re-fertilize their mother earth, and thus enrich it for re-production. What volumes of wisdom and philosophy in this simple and single fact! But man, more selfish and parsimonious, consumes all and gives back nothing. He draws his subsistence from the whole animal and vegetable kingdoms; to maintain which the earth is impoverished. And yet he forgets the kind and bountiful parent of all.

To *subdue* then, is not to destroy and devastate this beautiful and magnificent habitation of our race; but to clear the forests—drain the swamps—remove the stones and convert them into fences, walls and fixtures—set the orchards—open the rivers—tunnel the mountains—fill up the vallies—make the crooked places straight, the rough places smooth, and web the land with highways for travel and transportation—erect school houses, churches, private residences and public

edifices,—and thus cultivate, improve and adorn the earth, the place of our abode, to the highest attainable perfection. And that generation or individual proprietor, who leaves the earth worse than he found it, is a traitor against heaven as well as his own best interest.

For what purpose are we now assembled? To engender a general and universal spirit of improvement, and to bring its influence to bear, not only on the peculiar interests of agriculture, but on all the great and vital interests of the State. We hear lamentations, wherever we go, over the desolations of the South, and the public mind is painfully and intensely occupied in finding out a remedy. Instead of inducing immigration within our borders, we are not able to enchain our sons to the soil of their nativity. Instead of attracting capital to come among us and assist in building up our waste places, that which was already in our midst has been seeking more profitable investment elsewhere. And, as matters go on, this evil must extend itself, and become daily more aggravated, unless some efficient remedy is devised.

I trust that it may not appear arrogant in me to attempt to prescribe, with confidence, a cure for mischiefs so inveterate; and, for the removal of which, so many sagacious heads and philanthropic hearts have concentrated their energies.

I venture, however, to answer emphatically, there is no relief against this tendency to deterioration, while we continue to produce only a few agricultural staples, however large their value, and depend on others for all we consume. None, while we look to the meadows and gardens and dairies of the North for our hay and

vegetables, butter and cheese ; none, while so much of our money is swept away annually, for the bacon and pork, horses, hogs and mules of the West ; paying for these articles in cash, alone, and often in specie, two millions per annum ; none, while we buy from others, iron, leather, shoes, hats, bonnets, paper, books, machinery, furniture, and all the implements of agriculture, and every other article, from a nail, needle, pin, axe, helve, piggin, broom and shoe-peg, to the locomotive and railway car ; none, while we continue to spend abroad all that we can realize from our labor at home ; paying for all we get extravagant prices, while our labor and capital ordinarily yield the lowest rates, that will repay the cost of production. Under such a system exhaustion and degeneracy will continue. There is no redress and there can be none, while the present policy is pursued. But, on the contrary, a gloom as dense as that which brooded over Egypt, will continue to overhang the South. A radical change is indispensable, and it is entirely practicable. It has already commenced, and the results are most encouraging. The census now taking will exhibit two facts ; namely, the vast increase of machinery at the South since 1840, and the great advance in the value of real estate ; and it will be perceived, that this enhancement in price is in exact proportion to the increase and growth of manufacturers in each particular locality.

I am not insensible to the stubbornness of habit, the difficulty of changing long established customs, whether it respects the form of government under which we live, the industrial pursuits of the people, their laws, religion, or pastimes, their devotion to a stone god, *stone jug*, or any thing else ; and it is only the madness

or enthusiasm of a French reformer or revolutionist, that can suppose that the whole form and frame-work of society can be re-modelled in a day ; that the sun which rises in the east one morning, can be made to rise in the west the next ; or, what is tantamount to it, that without labor, and by a mere change of rulers, universal plenty will pervade and bless the country. Still, the reform or revolution to which I refer, is not impossible ; and necessity, the stern mother of so much that is great and admirable in our world, is working out for us a glorious deliverance and destiny.

The North, deaf to our remonstrance and blind to her own interest, is doing that for us, which, if let alone, we might never have accomplished for ourselves. The whole South is at last moving, some States faster and others slower ; and already, wealth and population are increasing in each, in exact ratio to their speed in this new career.

The Creator of the world is the Governor of the world, and he overrules the ignorance, as well as the wrath of man, not only for His own glory, but for our good.

To the imprisonment and oppression of an obscure individual, Francis Jenks, we are indebted for the final improvement, as well as the firm establishment of the writ of *Habeas Corpus*, second only in importance to *Magna Charta*.

The despotism of kings over their bodies and estates, and the dominion of the church over their consciences, drove the colonists from their father-land, and peopled this new world with the best blood of the old.

But for the demon-spirit of abolition, which assumed a definite shape at the North some twenty years since,

who can say what folly the South might not have committed with respect to her black population? Under the influence of a mistaken philanthropy, we were inclined to go much too fast and too far upon this momentous subject. And to agitation we are indebted for the settled conviction which we now entertain, relative to the institution of slavery. We believe that it had its origin in the same Divine wisdom and goodness which sent confusion among the impious builders of Babel, that every remote region of the earth might be replenished with inhabitants, each speaking its own tongue, and moulded into that form of society and government which should best subserve the benevolent designs of Providence.

The consequence is, that the cause of domestic emancipation has been suddenly and entirely arrested. Indeed, it has receded ten degrees and more, like the shadow which had gone down on the dial of Ahaz; and the universal opinion of the South now is, that the spectacle of three hundred thousand barbarians, emerging, under the mild and humane treatment of their owners, into near four millions of civilized Christians, is not only without a parallel in the history of the African race, but of the whole world. I repeat then, it is

“Divinity which shapes our ears,
Rough hew them as we may.”

The South was purely an agricultural population, and so opposed to innovation, that nothing but the mighty pressure of outward circumstances would have aroused her to the proper appreciation of her manufacturing capabilities. But forewarned, she has been compelled to examine the past, so as to prepare for the future, *whatever that future may be*. And the slightest

examination and the most partial experiments have been sufficient to convince her that her resources are unlimited, both in variety and abundance. The contest now is, and henceforth will be, who shall be foremost in developing them? And he will be esteemed the most patriotic citizen, who shall be most prompt with his wealth or talents, in putting machinery of every character into operation, in speeding the rail-road car, and thus laying a sure and solid foundation for permanent prosperity.

Maryland, Virginia, North and South-Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia, with many of their Southern sisters, are pushing ahead with giant strides. In the four last mentioned States, there are upwards of one hundred cotton mills in operation, consuming annually more than a hundred thousand bales of cotton. And this fact is manifest every where, that agriculture improves, just in proportion as manufactures advance. Indeed, to my mind it is a self-evident truth, that it can be rapidly improved in this way, and *in no other*.

Conventions may be held, fairs established, newspapers published, addresses delivered, premiums awarded, still agriculture will languish and remain in a depressed and thriftless condition, until the channels for labor are diversified. Thousands who are now idle, and other thousands who are engaged exclusively in planting, must be employed, in whole or in part, in mechanism and manufactures. And soon we shall witness one of the most remarkable transformations ever experienced by any people. The South will rise, Antæus-like, from all her defeats, with renewed activity, and speedily become, as, from her natural advantages, she always deserved to be, "magnificently rich and gloriously inde-

pendent." "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree: and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;" and our sunny South shall again blossom as the rose.

Will the South, the chivalrous South, remain longer in a condition of colonial servitude? With such means of independence within her own borders, why should a revolution in Europe, the condition or caprice of the Bank of England, put down the price of her great staples? It is unreasonable. Equally unmanly is it, to stand still and complain, and suffer anxiety on account of the anti-slavery fever of the North. Let her at once adopt the only sure and safe remedy for all these evils.

And why despair of success? Nineteen hundred and five years ago, Julius Cæsar invaded Britain, then a nation of savages, the country covered with forests and marshes, its inhabitants living by the chase, and its princes dressed in skins; now, her capital is the metropolis of the world. And, to borrow the forcible expression of one of your own writers, she might now buy Italy as a farmer purchases a field. Not long since, one of her merchant princes had it in serious contemplation, to acquire the whole of Palestine, and thus become the sole owner of the land where the tribes of Israel dwelt, and where Solomon reigned over four millions of subjects.

The wool of England, which at present constitutes the staple commodity of the kingdom, amounting in value to £21,000,000, and employing 350,000 persons in its manufacture, was, a few centuries back, sent to Bruges and other Flemish cities, to be returned in broadcloths and other products. Germany furnished

her with hardware, clocks and watches ; Italy with glass ; China with porcelain, and France with mirrors, silk and paper. But England went to work herself. She invited over weavers, fullers, dyers, and every species of artizans, from all parts of the world. She legislated, she made treaties, until now her success is complete. The skill and ingenuity of her craftsmen, the elegance and cheapness of her manufactures, her cities and towns, her palaces and private dwellings, her roads, bridges and canals, her improved agriculture, her domestic production, her foreign trade, her public credit and private wealth, are the admiration of all, and prove her to be the most prosperous and powerful of the family of nations.

Why, I ask, should we not attain to the same perfection ? Let every public functionary, every capitalist, every private citizen, respond to this question. Our country abounds with all the great elements of prosperity and wealth. Water, wood, coal and mountains of marble, minerals and metals of every description ; a soil and climate without a parallel. Let us at once, then, cease to talk, and begin to act in earnest, by resorting to those measures, that will not only induce our population and property to remain at home, but which will encourage mechanics and capitalists to settle among us. Objections may be interposed to the execution of these projects, the realization of these hopes, but who doubts the wisdom and liberality of the people to adopt every useful scheme, to sustain and support any proper plan, which will conduct to this goal ?

I assume, then, as an incontrovertible proposition, that our Southern people must, to a certain extent, abandon their accustomed paths and devise new plans

for their future prosperity ; that the interest of agriculture, laying aside every other consideration, imperatively demands a diversity of employment ; in short, that manufactures must be combined, to a great extent, with agriculture ; the one stimulating the other, and contributing to its emoluments. As an indispensable support and encouragement to agriculture, we must increase the class of consumers among ourselves.

And we must abandon prejudices, however deep-rooted, against this new order of things. The standstill doctrine must be forsaken, and forward, forward, be henceforth the watchword.

What, I would ask, has converted every acre of land in England into a garden?—crowded every sea and harbour in the known world with her ships? Certainly not her agriculture. Neither has it been by the operations of commerce, as the hand-maid of that agriculture. It has been brought about by importing the raw material from other countries, and manufacturing them at home : reserving so much as she needed for domestic use, and exporting the surplus for foreign consumption. She has managed by this means to shut out foreign manufactures ; kept the balance of trade generally in her favor in all parts of the earth, and secured all the profits arising from the raw material, as well as the manufactured article passing entirely through the hands of her own people. Without raising one pound of cotton at home, she has a population there of four millions directly or indirectly dependent on this trade. But suppose she could have grown her own cotton, and that its value, when manufactured, would have amounted to more than three times the worth of the raw material, would she, think you, have deprived her own

population of this source of profit and employment to so many millions? Considering what a great variety of operations the raw material undergoes, and the hundred different hands through which it passes, before reaching the consumer, would she not have secured these widely diffused benefits to the industrious of her own community? Such has been her uniform policy in relation to wool, iron, and every other article which her Island produced. And such, permit me to add, will be our policy, unless dim-sighted: yea, absolutely blind to our own best interest.

England has been much more enriched by taking in exchange cotton and other commodities of foreign growth, for her iron, steel and cotton goods, and other manufactures, than to have been repaid in gold and silver: by furnishing employment to multitudes in their preparation, and then exporting the wrought goods to the same countries whence the raw material was originally brought. But we are capable of producing most that we consume. To *breed, raise and manufacture* then as much as possible within herself is the true policy of South-Carolina,—is the true policy of every State. Did you ever know a Planter who produced at home all he *consumed, used or wore*, that did not prosper? Did you ever know an execution for debt levied on the property of such an individual? Nations are but an aggregation of individuals. It was a favorite maxim with that rigid economist, Cato the Censor, that a farmer should be always seeking to *sell*, rather than to *buy*.

I had supposed that the principle was well settled; that no commerce was so disadvantageous as the exchange of the raw material by the producer, for the manufactured goods of another country. And that,

other things being equal, that nation would always prosper most which gives profitable employment to the greatest number of its inhabitants; or which, in other words, raises the raw material, manufactures them and carries in its own vessels these commodities to foreign markets; and that for the obvious reason that in this way all three of the industrial pursuits—agriculture, manufactures and commerce—are alike sustained and supported. Nations may flourish temporarily by any one of these pursuits; but history demonstrates that such prosperity cannot be permanent. Egypt was once the most enlightened as well as the most fertile country in the world; but this ancient granary has long since been debased to a land of slaves without a prince of her own, and ground under the yoke of a most galling despotism. Carthage flourished for seven centuries by commerce; but was ultimately blotted from the map of nations. And Cicero, in his Republic, attributes her weakness to her exclusive preference for trade and navigation, instead of agriculture. Great Britain, by combining agriculture and commerce with her manufactures, has outlived the ordinary duration of kingdoms purely manufacturing. But she has well nigh reached her meridian. And as colony after colony separates from her (and which of all of them ultimately will not?) even the land of Cromwell, and Pitt, Peel, Nelson and Wellington, must submit to have *Ilium fuit* inscribed upon her once proud escutcheon.

This is the only nation, ancient or modern, which, from the extent of her sea-coast—the exhaustless fertility of her soil—the variety of her climate, extending through twenty degrees of latitude in the most favored zone, and countless physical advantages, is capable of

perpetuity. Whether she is destined to it is a problem which remains to be solved, and which is wisely, perhaps, concealed in the impenetrable veil of futurity. And not only are the United States, as a whole, thus blessed, but many of the individual members of the Confederacy, especially the Middle and Southern Atlantic States, have this independent self-existent life within them. They could each constitute a world within themselves. There is scarcely a vegetable, or fruit, or cereal grain, which may not be successfully cultivated in South-Carolina and Georgia.

But I go further still, and maintain that that is undoubtedly the most injurious species of traffic which introduces from abroad the same articles which we can produce equally well or better ourselves, especially if we are abundantly able to make a sufficient quantity to supply our own consumption. Better to establish cotton, woollen, iron, leather, paper, and all other manufactures, in which we can ultimately equal or surpass others, at great expense to ourselves at the beginning, and apparently even at losing rates, than be permanently dependent on others for them.

If these doctrines are well founded, (and we have great confidence in their soundness,) it is manifest that the South has paid toll from the sweat of her face long enough. Her cotton fields extend from southern Virginia to the Rio Grande, and embrace ten States and more than 500,000 square miles, sufficient of itself, perhaps, for the population of the whole earth, if properly managed. An average crop of cotton, in the United States, is usually estimated at 2,300,000 bales, which, at six cents, the average price, is worth 55,000,000 dollars. The same crop, when spun and wove, will bring

180,000,000 dollars, instead of 55,000,000, when sold as raw material. And this immense difference has been nearly all loss to us. Is it not startling? Who doubts that the grower's labor has been greatly sacrificed? Indeed, it has been almost entirely swallowed up in charges. And this process must continue until the producer and consumer—that is, the planter and manufacturer—can be brought nearer together. The planter will always be impoverished, until he ceases to be taxed so enormously, for the support of that numerous class who are engaged in the intermediate work of conversion and transportation.

Why, then, should we continue to ship our raw cotton abroad, to be spun and wove and brought back to us to be worn, at an expense four times as great as it would cost to do the same thing at home? And that, too, when we have so many poor in our midst, stinted for food and raiment for want of work. The very idea is preposterous that 200,000 bales of American cotton should be wrought, every year, into yarns in England, and thence transported to Germany, to be converted into fine fabrics, at a gain of twenty millions of dollars to England. Why should we not work up our own cotton into yarns, and transport them in our own ships and sell them to the Germans?

In ancient Rome, five acres was the ordinary size of a farm for the sustenance of a family, and in Flanders now, the same quantity is considered ample for the support of the household, besides affording a considerable surplus for other purposes. And shall South-Carolina, comprising within her borders 16,000,000 acres of land, of which only 1,300,000 are cultivated, with as many acres to the man, as there are men to the acres

in Europe, continue to be drained forever of her life-blood for foreign flour, Indian corn, oats, peas, potatoes, rye, barley, and almost every other article of consumption? Her consumption of imported iron, exclusive of cutlery, exceeds 2,000,000 dollars per annum; and yet she has inexhaustible quantities of ore of the very best quality. She consumes 2,500,000 dollars worth of leather, four-fifths of which are furnished from abroad; and yet she possesses all the materials necessary for tanning in the utmost profusion. For shoes and boots alone, she expends abroad, yearly, 1,081,709 dollars. Could not this vast sum be kept at home?

Notwithstanding the importance of the subject, owing to the lucid and masterly argument submitted to the public in this place, twelve months since, I do not deem it advisable to occupy much of your time, in demonstrating the capacity of the South to compete successfully with Old or New-England, in the manufacture of cotton. When we take into the account the difference in the cost of the raw material in these different markets, the price of labor, fuel, water-power and subsistence, the advantage in favor of the South is tremendous. Indeed, the rapid increase in this branch of business, within the last few years, among us, has demonstrated conclusively the practicability of the matter. If there be a deficiency in skill, at present, we are abundantly able to procure it. And the many inducements we offer, when properly understood and appreciated, will bring it to us from abroad, until we have time to rear it up at home. *No bankruptcy has occurred, within my knowledge, in any cotton company at the South. And while seventy-one mills are reported to have stopped,*

within thirty miles of Providence, Rhode Island, and numerous others have either ceased to run, or are put on short time at the North, on account of the high price of the raw material, or some other cause, some of our companies are declaring a dividend of ten per cent. on the business of the last year. These facts are sufficient to put to silence all speculations on the subject. Doubt it who may, the South is destined soon to become the seat of the cotton manufactures of the world. The competition has been forced upon us, and our people are beginning to be thoroughly aroused from their apathy.

It has become fashionable of late, just in proportion as cotton mills have multiplied at the South, for Northern newspapers and periodicals to abound with essays, the object of which is, to caution the South and West against mistakes and misrepresentations, as to the profits of cotton manufactures. Not that the writers are opposed at all to their extension, but they are concerned, lest amid the powerful impulse that has been given to public opinion and the employment of capital in this business, that we should be tempted in our enthusiasm "to leap in the dark." And, a gentleman of large experience and a thorough practical knowledge, we are assured, of the whole matter, and one who bears a name not altogether unknown to fame, has condescended, through one of the popular magazines, to enlighten his countrymen, by his pen, upon this subject.

Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.

We fear the Greeks, even when they offer presents. The bitter past has taught us the painful necessity of being on our guard, even against kindness, when thus

volunteered. Facts fortify us against these fears. What has covered the rock-bound coast and bleak hills of New-England, in despite of her rugged soil and rigorous climate, with marble mansions, and all that is beautiful in art and comfortable in civilization? Her manufactures in cotton, alone, are computed to have added not less than 300,000,000 dollars to the stock of her wealth within the last thirty-five years.

For the present, we are content for Europe and the North to monopolize the manufacture of prints and lawns, but the irrevocable decree has gone forth, that the South has resolved that the coarser fabrics and yarns are to be wrought here; and that we will do this, not in the spirit of a just retaliation, but in order that our own surplus labor may find employment; that we may make exchanges with India and China for our silks and teas, until we can supply ourselves at home with these articles; with Brazil for our coffee, and with all the rest of the world for the necessaries and luxuries of life, which we are unfitted to produce ourselves; and more especially that we may have a market at our own door for our agricultural products.

We find, that for our agriculture to flourish, we must have a market every where; and that it is people and not a place which makes the market; that the nearer this is found to the farmer's door the better; that he is impoverished in spending so much time and money in getting his breadstuffs to distant markets; and that rather than submit to existing evils, we are prepared to import the men and machinery, until we can raise up and qualify the one, and acquire competent skill to construct the other.

The recent developments in England furnish a strong

inducement to the South to embark immediately and extensively in the manufacture of coarse cottons and cotton yarns. There is a settled conviction in that country, that with their present and future prospects as to the supply and price of the raw material, their manufactures must run, more than they have done in former years, on finer fabrics ; that they must yield the lower numbers of cloths to us, *because we are nearer the material* ; and that, consequently, their consumption of raw cottons must tend to *decrease*, rather than *increase*. The same result will be true as to the continent. And it is believed, and, I think, on good authority, that this change will be permanent, and that the falling off in the consumption of raw cotton from this cause alone, will not be less than one-third.

If England and the continent, then, are compelled to retire from the manufacture of coarse cloths, of which the raw material forms so large a portion of the value, not only the manufacture of these fabrics, but the *markets* for them, must be transferred to others. Shall we succeed to them, or sit idle, while the waters are troubled, and see others step in before us ?

With our capacity for this business, it would be a burning shame not to avail ourselves of the opening thus presented. A lethargy, which nothing can excuse, will alone deprive us of this advantage. The demand for coarse, heavy, cheap cotton goods, will not only be sustained, but steadily increased, as they shall be substituted for flax and other materials in Russia, Germany, Ireland, and other parts of the world. And in this form, the great bulk of this staple will always be consumed. Let England and the continent, for the present, at least, continue to spin yarns, of which

the raw material costs but *one-twentieth* of the finished price, and to run spindles that do not produce *two pounds of yarn a quarter*; and the North monopolize, for a few years longer, the calicoes and dimities; but let us at once enter with hearty determination upon the work of using up the body of the crop, in gingham, checks, osnaburgs and coarse yarns; and the effect will be, to furnish a better market for the planter, than Liverpool or Lowell, as well as a home market for every description of produce. The trade and commerce of our sea-ports will flourish; our rivers will be rendered navigable; rail-ways and plank-roads and turnpikes constructed, not only to connect the towns and counties together, by the internal circulation of trade, but to afford an easy and cheap conveyance to the ocean, at every accessible port.

It is almost impossible to realize the effect of a manufacturing establishment of any sort in fostering the various branches of trade and business, in producing comfort, refinement and intelligence, and in stimulating the growth and populousness of the surrounding country. The evidences abound in every section of the Union, where the experiment has been made. First, the factory goes up; and soon it is surrounded with a beautiful village, with its hundreds, perhaps thousands, of clean, contented and thrifty inhabitants; then comes the hotels, the churches, the schools; next, the machine-shops and mills of every variety, the stores, post-office, and perhaps, finally, the savings bank. Old debts are paid off and litigation dried up, for every body has money and to spare; lands rise in value, from fifty to one hundred per cent., in the neighbourhood; for, there is a market not only for grain,

and articles which will bear transportation, though at a ruinous loss to the producer, but for heavy articles, that will not admit of transportation, and, also, for every cucumber, cabbage, and quart of milk that can be spared. It was published in the papers, during the past summer, that one of the large hotels in the city of New-York consumed daily, besides bushels of berries, twelve hundred eggs, five hundred quarts of milk, and from five hundred to a thousand pounds of beef. Now, every manufacturing establishment is an *Astor* or an *Irving House* to the surrounding population. Let, then, the cotton mill and the cotton field, and that most formidable of all trios and most holy of all alliances, "the plough, the loom and the anvil," be brought together.

Who can estimate the good the founders of one of these establishments has done to his species? How many politicians render equal service to the State? Such men may not have a place on the page of history with the conquerors of Mexico, but posterity will rank them with the benefactors of mankind. The friends of free trade are said to have made to Mr. Cobden, its great advocate and champion, a donation of near a million of dollars; and I rejoice at the precedent. It is high time that fortunes and honors should be bestowed on those who have taught successfully the arts of peace—the true criterion of national glory—as well as upon military chieftains. The day is not distant—and I rejoice at the fact—when the highest distinctions will be conferred on those who have done most to multiply the means of subsistence, and to impart them to the rapidly increasing millions of the human family.

And was there ever such a people as the Americans for boldness of conception and indomitable perseverance? Their minds partake of the rivers, water-falls, and mountain scenery of the country. Every individual aspires to be the founder of a city, the conqueror or lawgiver of a nation; a Romulus, Cortez or Solon. And there is not a pettifogger, who has fled the country for debt or crime, that cannot construct a wiser constitution than the immortal John Locke framed for the *Province* of South-Carolina. Nor is it true that covetousness alone begets this spirit of adventure. It would be folly to deny that the men who thus embark with their time and talents and fortune, look to remuneration. Still, there is much patriotism and philanthropy mixed up with all these enterprizes. These pioneers rejoice in the thought, that they are not working for themselves alone, but are aiding in laying, broad and deep, the foundations of a glorious empire; and that they are assisting, in the best possible mode, in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and giving eyes to the intellectually blind.

But it is objected, that these manufacturing establishments will become the hot-beds of crime, where it will shoot up in alarming luxuriance, to corrupt and destroy the public morals. But I am by no means ready to concede that our poor, degraded, half-fed, half-clothed, and ignorant population, without sabbath schools, or any other kind of instruction—mental or moral—or without any just appreciation of the value of character, will be injured, by giving them employment, which will bring them under the oversight of employers, who will inspire them with self-respect, by taking an interest in their welfare. My own personal

experience and observation are directly the reverse of the opinion which I am combatting; and I could state many interesting facts, in corroboration of the belief which I entertain. After all, the most powerful motives to good conduct, is to give suitable encouragement to labor, and to bestow proper rewards upon meritorious industry.

Did time permit, I should take great pleasure in urging upon my fellow-citizens the propriety of engaging extensively in various other industrial pursuits, believing confidently as I do, from careful investigation, as well as upon the experience of the most enlightened and practical men, both in the feasibility and profitability of these branches of industry.

Is there any good reason why the leather and shoe business should not be extensively prosecuted at the South? It ranks as the fourth, after cotton, wool and iron, in Great Britain; and it is questionable, if it be not superior to the latter, even there. In this country, it holds a still higher rank; and we have a *natural* guaranty that this business never can become unfashionable, or be overdone. With our forests for bark, and facilities for conducting this branch of manufacture advantageously, why, I would earnestly inquire, should it not be undertaken at once? All the experiments hitherto made at the South have proved eminently successful. All that we lack is a few Zadock Pratts, to lead in this business. When we reflect to what a variety of uses leather is applied, in the implements of war, husbandry and the mechanic arts, the structure of machinery, the furniture of houses, articles of clothing, books, hats, caps, harness and carriages, there is no single material, it has been truly remarked, except cotton,

which is so much needed, or needed in so much plenty. Without it, or without it in the plenty which we have it, what would the world do? What a wide field for commercial enterprize—to exchange our cotton goods for the raw-hides of Texas, Mexico, and South-America!

I have no means at hand of ascertaining the value of the leather and shoe manufactures in the United States. In England, it is estimated at upwards of 60,000,000 of dollars; and it is computed that more than 250,000 persons are employed in its various departments. And it is in the way here detailed, that she has built up Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, and scores of other towns, constructed her India docks, and other commercial wonders, which overshadow, by comparison, the proudest monuments erected by ancient kings and emperors.

The iron and paper business and sheep-husbandry, to pass over all other commodities, for which our climate and invaluable resources are so admirably adapted, have been too long overlooked and neglected. As it respects wool, it has been triumphantly shown, that millions might and ought to be realized at the South from this one article; whether we consider the health and longevity of the sheep, the texture and weight of the fleece, the cheapness of subsistence, or the great profits which would result to this section, from this business; that we can compete successfully at it, if not outstrip any other region of the country.

But from the nature and extent of these subjects, my observations would necessarily have to be too general and cursory, to be of any practical utility. Volumes would be required to do justice to their dis-

cussion. Lest I should tax your indulgence too severely, allow me to offer some suggestions, as to the best mode of promoting the great ends for which this Association has been formed.

1. I need not consume time in pointing out the influence which the legislation of a country exerts over its wealth and pecuniary prosperity ; the constant and indissoluble connection between national legislation and national well-being. Where would have been the commerce of England and of this country, at this day, had it still been governed by the *common law*, instead of the *law merchant* ? Under the liberal policy of the *Lex Mercatoria*, the whole world will soon be converted into one city, and all mankind into one family.

To illustrate the intimate relation between the public laws and general welfare of a people, I put an extreme case. Suppose the third of the Twelve Tables of the Roman law, relating to loans, was re-enacted here, giving to the creditor the right, after thirty days, provided the debtor failed to pay or give security, to seize his person, load him with chains, and maintain him on a scanty allowance of food ; and if he was still in default, after two months of imprisonment, to be brought before the people on three market days, and finally sold, or his body cut into pieces and divided among his creditors. Who would borrow money, or contract debts, under such a code ?

The austere laws of Lacedæmon made war a trade. And it was the military training of her children, which rendered them not only undaunted on the field of battle, but illustrious for their courage and love of liberty.

Desolation and waste pervade, at this day, certain districts in Europe, whose fertility was so remarkable

two thousand years ago, that it was said of them, that if a stick was laid down the overnight, it could not be found in the morning, on account of being smothered in grass. Bad government has produced, and still perpetuates, this melancholy change; for governments are powerful to produce mischief, as well as to do good. And hitherto, unfortunately, nations have been concerned mainly in learning how to destroy life, rather than to save it.

The desire for the acquisition of wealth is greatly paralyzed under a despotism, where property is not only not protected, but exposes the proprietor to every species of persecution and oppression. And if extreme caution is requisite in legislating for France, England and Italy, and countries isolated from all others, by their laws and language, how much more circumspection is needed in the States of this Union, whose inhabitants are, in one sense, fellow-citizens of the same commonwealth, however separated into distinct and independent State sovereignties. The boundary line of a State is crossed with almost as little reluctance as that of a county. Indeed, we are hardly sensible of any change in passing from one State to another. We are still *American* citizens. Who can calculate the influence which the municipal regulations of these separate communities have exerted in advancing or retarding their local interests? what effect they have had in exiling or attracting enterprize, population and capital? And money or men once driven away, rarely return. They remain to enrich and bless their adopted, and more fostering, homes. How signally was South-Carolina blessed by the revocation of the edict of Nantz by Louis XIV?

I shall be pardoned, then, I trust, for respectfully suggesting that she should look carefully to her own laws, in order that labor, capital and population may be invited within her borders, instead of being banished from the place which gave them birth, by inadvertent legislation. She has, until recently, looked with coldness, if not discouragement, upon any change in the industrial pursuits of her people. She is now in a transition state, from a purely planting condition, to one of diversified employment. Should not her legislation correspond with her altered condition? And, in making laws, she must not only consider what is right and proper in the abstract, but reference must be made both to the state of the times and the policy pursued by the other States of the Union, especially of those which immediately surround her.

Dr. Smith, in his Inquiry into the Wealth of Nations, does not hesitate to denounce corporations as injurious to the freedom of trade and the progress of improvement. And Robertson, Hallam, and other distinguished writers concur in this opinion, and maintain that while they served, during the middle ages, to keep alive the spirit of liberty, and in sustaining and encouraging the efforts for intellectual improvement, that in modern times these monopolies check the free circulation of labor, and enhance the price of the proceeds of industry.

Nevertheless, it must be confessed, that without charters, conferring certain privileges and immunities, many of the more costly works of internal improvement in this country would never have been attempted, much less accomplished. But for charters, what portion of the 8,000 miles of railway, with which the re-

public is reticulated, and over which tens of thousands of passengers, and an incredible amount of commerce, are transported daily, would have been constructed? I insist that associated wealth is, in no small degree, the cause of modern civilization; and that whatever jealousy may have been entertained abroad toward large and overgrown corporations, such as the East India and Turkey Companies, charters should be viewed with favor here, rather than distrust; provided they contain suitable provision for the protection of the community against fraud, as well as desperate and reckless speculation. They are demanded by the exigencies of the times.

2. The philosophic statesman and zealous reformer, who meditate by day and by night how they may best promote the prosperity of the country, unite in considering popular education, not only as the certain means of personal success in life, but the grand instrument in promoting the weal or woe of the human family. The continuance and progress of civilization depend upon it. No one, then, can be indifferent to its advancement. It may be truly said, that of the pillar upon which the structure of our national greatness rests, religion is the pedestal, general intelligence the shaft, and good government the capital. Let either of these be shaken from its place, and the fabric falls.

If manufactures, in the broadest sense of that term, and which is defined to be every change or modification effected by art and industry in the form or substance of material articles, for the purpose of satisfying some want or desire of our nature, are ever to find an abiding place at the South, popular education must not be neglected. It must become "the servant of

all ;" not only for political reasons, because trusts of vaster importance have been committed to us, than ever were before to any other people ; not because we are called on annually to decide by our votes questions of peace or war, banks, tariffs, territorial acquisition, and others of far more magnitude than ever came before the Amphictionic Council of Greece, or the Roman Senate ; measures which, in their results, must exert an incalculable influence on the world of mankind, not only for the present generation, but for indefinite ages to come ; it is not for these reasons, overwhelming as they are, when properly contemplated, that I would exhort all who have influence in the State to gird themselves up, for the paramount and praiseworthy task, of educating more extensively and more perfectly our whole population ; but it is to give them a head to plan and a hand to execute, in the new field of enterprize in which the 8,000,000 of the South are about to embark. Go forth, then, through all the length and breadth of the States, and teach the people ; make full trial of the mind of the State, as well as of the soil of the State. We want "cultivated farmers as well as cultivated farms." Let every body be qualified to work, fitted for his probable pursuit in life, his prospective duties.

While upon this subject, I will take the liberty of making a few observations with regard to the entire system of education pursued in our institutions of learning, from the lowest elementary school to our State universities. In my humble judgment, they require a system of instruction better adapted to the spirit of the age and the wants of the country. It is not my purpose to deny the advantages of classical

learning. On the contrary, I am convinced that nothing contributes more to the foundation of a truly manly character. The patriotic spirit of ancient literature, which is so pre-eminently its leading feature, is, to my mind, a strong recommendation. And, at our epoch, when the republic must be saved—if saved at all—by the virtuous energy of her most accomplished sons, I would hold up to the imitation of all that tutelary spirit of liberty, Marcus Tullius Cicero, “the only great man at whom Cæsar always trembled, the only great man whom falling Rome did not fear.” The long array of scholars, poets, orators and statesmen, who have formed their taste in the school of antiquity, constitute a cloud of witnesses, whose testimony I am not here to contradict. For simplicity, purity, conciseness, vigor, beauty and elegance, the Greek language is without a rival. The Latin is the prolific mother of the French, Spanish, Italian, and many modern idioms. To both we are indebted for many of the terms of art and science, as well as for most of our polysyllables. And, in studying the ancient tongues, we are but making ourselves more perfect masters of our own. Still, I insist that in this age of utility and reform, when the invention of some new machine is of more importance than the discovery of the planet Neptune by Le Verrier, if our youth are to be trained in such a manner as shall fit them for the practical duties of life, our plastic institutions must in this respect, as in all others, adapt themselves at once to every improvement. As a young and growing people, we value education chiefly for its application to the arts of life. We are, and for a long time to come must be, mainly occupied in learning those things which

can be appropriated at once to the increase of our wealth and of our physical enjoyments. The first settlement of North America, as well as the forms of our civil institutions, are a constant protest against the antiquated errors and abuses of the old world. As well retain feudalism, with all its baleful consequences, as the superannuated systems of Oxford and Cambridge. No. "We are, and of right ought to be, free and independent" of both.

All of our graduates can repeat readily those passages from Homer, Sophocles and Demosthenes, Livy, Sallust and Cæsar, which discourse eloquently of war and heroic exploits, and which warm and vivify like the mid-day sun, by their fire and majesty; but how few of them recollect that Homer and Hesiod, the earliest of the Greek poets, sung the praises of the plough, the king of agricultural implements; that Xenophon, at his country seat at Smyrna, expatiated in his *Œconomick's*, on the importance of husbandry, and described its influence on the prosperity of the arts and the advancement of civilization; and that Cicero was so captivated with the sweet simplicity and beneficial tendency of this treatise, that he translated it into Latin; and that Virgil—the Sir Walter Scott of Italy—has collected the best observations and choicest maxims of antiquity on rural occupations; that Cato, Varro and Pliny, and their contemporaries, speak familiarly of the "clod-crusher," and other agricultural appliances; and that for preparing the ground, sowing seed, cultivating the crop, reaping, harvesting, threshing and winnowing it, buying, feeding, clothing and lodging agricultural slaves, purchasing, raising and selling all kinds of cattle and poultry, the employment of

overseers, their duties and compensation, as well as that of their wives, they give an accuracy of information that is astonishing; and which establishes conclusively, that Arthur Young, Jethro Tull, Von Thaer, Norton, Stephens and Johnson, are but gleaners in a department which had been occupied, with great judgment and taste, more than two thousand years before they entered it.

If, then, we would qualify our people to act well their part in the new drama upon which we are now entering, all of our literary establishments must be remodelled. Modern languages, civil engineering, didactics, or the theory and practice of teaching, designing and engraving, the natural history of birds and insects—so far, at least, as to know whether they are the friends or foes of the farmer, florist and horticulturist—animal and vegetable chemistry, and its application to soils and the arts, geology, mineralogy, botany, architecture, road-making and bridge-building, surveying, navigation and ship-building, and the theory and practice of agriculture, must be introduced and thoroughly taught.

Do not understand me to insist that all classes of the people are to receive college diplomas, or to be educated to that degree, that, like the Athenians, they would be able to decide, not only upon the sentiments delivered by their public speakers, but criticise, also, both the correctness of their style and the harmony of their periods. I do contend, however, that a requisite degree of skill, in all the great pursuits of life, should be instilled into the student, so that he may be ready to seize at once upon any opening which may present itself, for the support of himself and family.

Some of the States have established normal schools and institutes, where the best means are afforded for teaching the application of the arts to all the industrial pursuits. Others have organized agricultural professorships in their colleges, and the most auspicious results have followed. We trust that the Smithsonian Institute, established at Washington, may prove an inestimable blessing to the whole country in this respect.

If we would lay a broad and deep foundation for general and permanent improvement at the South, the rising generation must be better instructed in agriculture, manufactures and the mechanic arts. There ought to be catechisms prepared for elementary schools and academies, in all these departments; and no teacher should be considered qualified to instruct, who is not imbued with an adequate portion of knowledge in these branches, and who is not likewise thoroughly impressed with their value and importance.

According to the last census, there were 65,255 persons engaged in this country in the learned professions; 33,176 in internal, and 56,021 in ocean navigation; 791,749 in manufactures; 117,667 in merchandize; and 3,719,951 in agriculture. Does our system of education correspond with the relative importance of these employments? It is universally admitted that the cultivation of the earth is the primary source of our civilization; that its influence upon man's business and pleasure, intellectual and moral improvement, can hardly be over-stated. By it we live and move and have our being. Has it received its due proportion of public patronage and attention?

Our whole system of education has exclusive reference to the three learned professions—law, medicine

and divinity. I would, by no means, underrate these professions ; on the contrary, they cannot be too highly appreciated. We want, however, more scholars, who, when they graduate, will prefer the verdant fields of the country to the gilded halls of the city ; who will take more delight in the lowing of flocks and herds, and the ten thousand thrilling notes of rural life, than in all the melody of the orchestra. How often have our towns proved the graves of health, hope and happiness, to the youth of this country !

One of the curses of the South has been, that landed proprietors have congregated in towns and villages, instead of residing on their plantations and partaking personally in all the business of the farm. It had passed into a proverb, as early as the days of Margo, the Carthaginian, that he to whom an abode in the city lies close at heart, has no need of a country estate. We abuse the system of absenteeism in Ireland, and deservedly, too. It is, undoubtedly, the primary cause of all the sufferings of that generous, hospitable, but oppressed and down-trodden people. And yet, we do not seem to suspect that it has operated with almost equal fatality here. And in this is to be found the secret, why there are among us so many drones in the political hive ; so many who consume the substance of society, without contributing to enlarge its stores.

I would not unduly magnify the pursuit of agriculture ; neither will I shock the good taste of my audience, by repeating the stale remark, that while man was yet in the sinless perfection of his original nature, he was put into the garden of Eden, “to dress it and to keep it.” How that,

“ In ancient times, the sacred plough employed
The kings and awful fathers of mankind.”

In modern days, this occupation has been held in no less esteem. General Washington, the first of his country's warriors and the best of her sons, never appears so attractive as amid the rural shades of Mount Vernon.

Let the starvation of 500,000 persons in Ireland, with all its accumulated horrors, by the loss of a single crop, and from diseases engendered and aggravated by famine, attest the importance of agriculture as essential to human existence.

Eminent statesmen, and members of all professions, orators and scholars of the highest order of talent, minds highly gifted of heaven, and forming a bright constellation of genius and renown, all over the country, take a lively interest in agriculture. They attend Fairs, make speeches, preside over meetings and give all their influence to the encouragement of that art, from which man draws, mainly, his daily supplies. And I should be inexcusable, were I to omit to mention in this connection the name of the farmer of Fort Hill, over whose urn Carolina yet weeps. This illustrious statesman exhibited on his plantation the same vigorous and systematic intellect which characterized his public career in the Senate and Council Chamber. And although dead, his thoughts and the example of his life still survive, and can never be extinguished, but by the extinction of the race. If the youth of America would feel what genius and learning and virtue should aspire to, in a time of public peril and despondency, let them go and refresh their spirits and invigorate their resolution at the tomb of John C. Calhoun.

3. But I have somewhat to say against the waste

and mismanagement that have hitherto, to a considerable degree, attached to the agriculture of the South. Time will only permit me to specify one item. We are sadly deficient in ornamental improvement. Not only the character of our people, but the estimate put upon our civilization by strangers, is, and will continue to be, materially dependent upon the cultivation of a proper taste in our rural abodes.

I admit that many of our large grain, cotton and rice plantations, will compare advantageously with any in the world, not only for good management, but also for the beauty of their appearance. If they are excelled any where, it is, perhaps, by the sugar plantations on the lower banks of the Mississippi. It cannot be denied, however, that the great body of our farmers are not sufficiently careful to protect and preserve, to nourish and increase the elements of embellishment and beauty at their command, and which would enable them, in this charming region, where "the snow-spirit never comes, where the forest trees are never stripped of their green coronal, and where spring flings her flowers into the very lap of winter," to make their residences a miniature of Paradise. And in this, as in most other cases, beauty and utility go together. Every tree, properly planted, whether it be for fruit or shade—every vine which is trained around the house or cottage, will add not only to his own comfort and refinement, but to the richness and value of the proprietor's possessions. It is money put out at usury. With a little well-directed industry, what greenness would pervade our present desolations! Let him who doubts the policy and practicability of thus adorning a Southern country, traverse the valley

of the Arno, from Pisa to Florence. Its corn, and grapes, and figs, and olives, and mulberries—its luxuriant vallies and romantic hills, covered with plantations of pines, make it one continued scene of perfect enchantment. And what Tuscany is, South-Carolina, and every Southern State, might and ought to be, save her beggarly population.

And who would not be happier and better, by the exchange of so much barrenness for so much beauty? How much wood-land has been and is still wantonly destroyed? Who ever thinks of performing one of the three cardinal duties of life—planting a tree? Who ever spares one, if interest or caprice prompt its destruction? How often is the majestic oak, of five hundred years growth, girdled or laid low to expose to the sun a few hills of corn?

What traveller, toiling through our long lanes, in the summer solstice, has not deprecated that ill-judged parsimony which has caused to be levelled a fine avenue of magnificent poplars, or that pride of the South, the Pride of India? This is barbarism! If there be but one capital felony left in the code in this age of *humanism*, let it be this. The axe in the hands of the executioner, under Henry VIII, did not make more terrible havoc, than when wielded by our people. Like the Chourinier in the Mysteries of Paris, reason seems to desert them, when they seize the fatal instrument. Would that we could stay this wicked waste—would that we could induce every body, instead of cutting down one tree, to plant out two! Would that we could learn to love trees, so as to arrest their entire destruction from our domains, by the unsparing axe. Would that we could exorcise this pioneer spirit from the land.

Would that we could prevail upon the Legislature to require, by law, every main market-road to be lined with a row of shade trees on either side. How refreshing to the waggoner and way-worn traveller—how conducive to health.

It should be the pride of every land-holder, whether large or small, to stud his estate with shade and fruit trees, isolated or in clumps. It is one of the simplest, cheapest and most agreeable of all improvements. And the indifference displayed to means which would tend so certainly and speedily to adorn the home of the planter and render it attractive, is inconceivable. How few are supplied with an abundance of fruit, and yet nothing is wanting but a little care to have not only the apple, pear, peach and plum, in all their nameless varieties, but the English walnut, filbert and pecan nut, all of which are well adapted to every part of this State; and, but for the pride of the planter, might be made a source of great profit.

Shall I be pardoned for suggesting that the egg business of France is valued at the enormous sum of 100,000,000 of dollars? She exports annually to England 82,000,000. And New Jersey realized from her peach crop this year, at one market only, the handsome sum of 334,625 dollars. Will the South ever learn to gather up the fragments that nothing may be lost? Cannot some means be devised to induce the people of the South to bestow more pains upon the arrangement and convenience of farm improvements?—the family mansion, out-houses and barns, especially. No man ought to get credit whose fences are dilapidated or moved in, to avoid cleaning up the hedge-row.

To exhaust one field and clear another—wear out one

tract of land and purchase another—or for a settler to purchase a piece of new land, “flog it to death, abandon the carcase, and then repeat the operation upon a new subject,”—has been the ruinous practice heretofore pursued. “Never are, but ever to be blessed,” is our migratory motto. But the day for selling out and “moving west,” is past. We are shut in to our heritage. Well, thank God, the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places. And, after all, it must be conceded that *dispersion* has been the bane of the South.

4. Has not the set time come, when labor at the South shall be esteemed honorable? To teach the important lesson, that character and respectability are to be computed by moral worth and not by the pursuit of the individual? That the architect of his own fortune is more praiseworthy than he who inherits a patrimony, however large? To condemn that false pride which contemns honest industry? This Institute, and all similar associations, aim at this object. Let the mechanic, especially, be encouraged and cherished. What a wilderness would the world become without him! And, as was beautifully said by a distinguished Divine, if their heraldry is the hammer, the axe, and the awl, it should be esteemed of equal honor, as if in their place they could have dragons, and helmets, and cross-bows, and skulls. Every body must learn to labor. This is the fundamental law of the universe—

———“Nought is sleeping,
From the worm of painful creeping,
To the cherub on the throne.”

And we rejoice to learn that the field, the forge, the forest and the fold, will all be present to bear their united testimony in favor of industry.

5. After all, without an extensive system of internal improvements, upon the most enlarged scale, nothing can be accomplished; and with it, all other things will follow. Belgium was one of the first of the continental countries to perceive the vast advantage of rail-ways; and one of the earliest of her great measures after the acknowledgement of her independence, which followed the revolution of 1830, was the projection of an extensive system of rail-way communication, intersecting her territory, east, west, north and south, connecting Ostend with Cologne, and Valenciennes with Antwerp; and from being one of the most sterile, she has become one of the most productive and highly cultivated states in Europe. And wherever this plan has been pursued, the most prodigious results have followed.

Take, for example, the northwest portion of Georgia, covering an area of 4,366,554 acres of land, and distinguished almost above any other country on the globe for the variety and value of its mineral wealth and agricultural resources. When acquired from the Indians it was almost an unbroken forest, and for some years afterwards it was esteemed valueless for want of a market. Now it is intersected by a rail-road from Chattanooga, on the Tennessee river, to Atlanta, 140 miles; and from the latter terminus there are two diverging routes to the seaboard—one by Augusta to Charleston, and the other by Macon to Savannah; and already mills of every description are multiplying—forges and furnaces erecting—and towns are springing up almost in a day, all over the country, skirting the rail-roads and dotting the interior, and filled with tailors, shoemakers, hatters, blacksmiths, makers of ploughs and hoes, looms, and every other species of handicraft. And there is a

mighty demand for labor and food : and, as a natural consequence, a physical as well as a moral renovation are visible all over this region. In every village—and nearly every depot is a village—Sabbath schools have been formed, numbering from 96 to 176 scholars each. Land has risen not less than two hundred per cent. throughout this whole section, and not less than five hundred per cent. contiguous to the road.

Corn, which was distilled into whiskey for want of a market—its maximum price being 25 cents per bushel, and usually not more than half that sum—is now shipped to the interior and the seaboard, to feed the destitute of other regions. It is transported at a profit from Elk River to Augusta, a distance of more than five hundred miles ; and bacon was brought, last summer, from Lafayette, on the Wabash, seventy miles beyond Indianapolis, in the State of Indiana, and sold at Atlanta at a profit of nearly one hundred per cent. Irish potatoes, of which Georgia made no return whatever in the census of 1840, are now sold in the middle counties of that State at 25 cents per bushel.

The Western and Atlantic Road was not fully opened till the 9th of May last, and there were transported over it during the year ending the 30th of September, 1850, 65,512 bushels of corn, 28,161 bushels of wheat, 45,439 bushels of lime, 2,972,975 lbs. of bacon, 314,113 lbs. of lard, 37,630 lbs. of butter, 117,151 lbs. of feathers, 921,028 lbs. of bar-iron, 562,802 lbs. of pig-iron, and 628,270 lbs. of castings, besides innumerable other articles too tedious to mention. It yields a revenue already of two hundred thousand dollars, and the enterprise is just in its infancy.

To predict what this country will be half a century

hence—with its Alpine mountains and waterfalls—its exuberant vallies—its lime, coal, gypsum, iron and marble—its mineral waters of every conceivable variety, and all reduced to subjection by the matchless ingenuity and stalwart arm of the Anglo-Saxon race, which are fast filling it up—would be called the dream of a disordered imagination.

What would the wild man of the woods, so recently the sole occupant of this country, think, were he permitted to witness the daily communications made and replied to in a moment, between points more than a hundred miles apart, through a region that was but yesterday a wilderness—respecting proceedings in court—summoning witnesses—the receipt of money at one station and its disbursement at another—consultations of physicians and attorneys—banks, brokers, and police officers—despatches between the government and the public functionaries—items of news and election returns—announcement of deaths—inquiries respecting the health of family and friends—orders for goods—and, in short, communications of every character, heretofore sent by mail, and which required days and weeks for their transmission—would not all this exceed the utmost flight of his untutored and bewildered fancy?

No one will suspect me of having dwelt on these details, to gratify a feeling of State pride. My only motive has been to strengthen the hands and resolution of the friends of internal improvement. Let rail-roads and telegraphic wires be ramified from Charleston, your great and rapidly expanding commercial emporium, all over the State—threading every valley and looking every where for what they create, the elements of wealth and population—“as roots are said to have the

faculty of searching for their food." This done, and every landholder in the back country becomes a capitalist; for not only every walnut, maple, cherry, sycamore, beach and poplar tree, will be readily convertible into cash, but every granite quarry will become a *stone* mine, affording more durable riches than the far-famed *gold* mines of California.

We are waking up at the South from the sleep of ages, to a proper appreciation of our duty and our dignity. We see kindling on the mountain top, the dawning of a brilliant day; and, if I may be allowed the expression, we feel *to-night* the fresh air of the *morning*. How much has been done, is now doing, to save labor, aid industry, economize time, and add to the comfort and convenience of the human family? Shall we not share in the trophies which mind, in its omnipotence, is winning over matter? While millions in the four quarters of the globe are blessing the names and achievements of Fulton, and Morse, and Evans—Hoe, Arkright, Watt, Davy, Hargrave, Babbage, Guttenburg and Crampton—shall our lips be sealed?

No,—let us partake rather in the novel and glorious contest which is waging between the Eastern and Western Continents—the Old and the New World. Our trans-Atlantic brethren, rousing themselves from the torpor of age, and striving to become as free as they are enlightened; and we, putting forth the strength of the infant Hercules, to become as enlightened as we are free.

South-Carolina will be represented in the great concourse of nations which shall be gathered in London in 1851, to exhibit proofs and specimens of the natural ingenuity and industry of their respective countries.

When the farm, the dairy, the forest, the mine, the factory, the workshop, the laboratory and the studio, shall display their treasures, she will not fail to occupy her allotted space in this industrial exhibition. I will not intrude in giving advice in a matter so purely local. I will not ask her to exhibit—as she is so abundantly able to do—specimens of her manufacturing and mechanical skill—of her forest riches and mineral wealth, in all their beautiful variety. She will, I entertain no doubt, attract notice and win approbation in each and all of these departments. Allow me to direct her attention to one single article. Is it not practicable to have the cotton plant there, green seed and black, with its blossoms, flowers, squares, bolls, young, bursting and ripe, and draperied with their downy fleece, to occupy a prominent place in the World's Museum on Hyde Park?

Amidst all that is rare in raw materials and produce, machinery and manufactures, sculpture and the plastic arts, will any thing be brought forward to arrest more attention for its novelty or value, than a plant which has altered the face of the globe and the destiny of nations?

When it is recollected that the fruit of this shrub gives employment to four millions in England, and half as many more on the Continent—and yet that, like flax, the sheep and the silk worm, the other three great materials provided by Providence to clothe the world—it is not indigenous to Europe—that it possibly, yea, probably, succeeded the fig-leaf fabrics worn by the primitive pair in Eden—that the beauty and delicacy of its soft fleece was sung by the Mountain Bard, the father of Latin verse in the Georgics—who can doubt the intense interest which this plant would excite?

My word for it, no bouquet from the mammoth Green-House of Chatworth, would be half so acceptable to Majesty herself, as the cotton plant.

Let us not, Mr. President, despise the day of small things. How humble are all great results at the beginning! Astronomy had its origin in astrology, and chemistry in alchemy. First the blade, then the full corn in the ear; first the acorn, then the oak; first the oozing spring, then the mighty river; first the coral insect, then the sea-girt island; first the dawn, then the noon-day; first the infant, then the man. So it is with nature—so it is with art—so it is with revelation itself. We have the Old and the New Testaments or Dispensations, the former the shadow only of the latter. The navy of Rome arose from the fragments of the broken ship of Carthage collected on the strand. Who appreciated the labors of Newton, while he pondered over the embryo laws of gravitation in the falling apple? And now the world is scarcely large enough to contain his fame.

We have lived to see the day, sir, and I am glad of it, when ingenuity is no longer taxed to seek out inventions to gratify avarice and ambition, tyranny and torture, but to ameliorate and bless the condition of mankind. *Benevolence*, instead of *malevolence*, is beginning to be the grand master-spirit and motive-power of the world. All working for the good of all—this is society—all else is savagism. Associated man regulating the pursuits of individual man—not by law, nor sword, nor thumbscrew, nor bullet, nor bayonet—but by precept and example, moral suasion, personal influence, and the law of good neighborhood. We meet

together and say to one another—"Come, thou, with us, and we will do thee good."

"Self-love thus pushed to social, to divine,
Gives thee to make thy neighbor's blessings thine."

But it is time, fellow-citizens of South-Carolina, to close these remarks, prepared and presented under the three-fold disadvantage of want of leisure, want of health, as well as want of access to the necessary materials for such a discourse; and yet drawn out, I fear, to a tedious length, by the interest I feel, both in the subject and the people for whose benefit they are intended. The task which I have so feebly and imperfectly executed, will hereafter be committed to abler hands. May each returning anniversary record your improvement in Agriculture, Commerce, Manufactures and the Arts, until South-Carolina shall become as renowned for her prosperity as she is already exalted by her privileges—until there shall be no desert within her borders, upon which Heaven's verdure does not bloom.